ment have consitituted a full time Special Surplus Stores Disposal Committee (SSSDC) for a period of one year with effect from 24th July, 1991, for arranging the disposal of surplus and obsolete stores of a security nature held by the Ordnance Depots of the Army. The SSSDC is not responsible for negotiating the export of old defence equipment. However, during the course of its work, the Committee will ascertain whether any of the items/stores referred to it for disposal have an export potential and report such stores to the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India (PEC) a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of Commerce, which has been designated by the Deptt. of Defence Production and Supplies as the nodal agency for export of Defence stores. The P.E.C. will explore the possibilities of export and take all such action as is necessary in regard thereto. The clearance of the Export Promotion Cell of the Ministry of Defence will be obtained, wherever necessary.

2. The SSSDC is in the process of identifying the items having an export potential. So far, the Committee has reported 59,480 Metric Tonnes of Army surplus stores to M/s PEC for export. As the quantum of actual exports will depend on the success achieved by M/s PEC, it is not possible to indicate the figures of such exports for the current year.

3. The projected figures for the export of old equipment held by the Air Force and the Navy have not been worked out. As regards the export of fresh items produced by the defence production units under the aegis of the Deptt. of Defence Production and Supplies the target for 1991-92 is Rs. 104 crores.

Functioning Public Sector Banks

2622. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether customers of public sector banks have switched over to foreign banks operating in India during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revamp the efficiency and promptness in the public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not come across any perceptible shifting of accounts from public sector banks to foreign banks.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The performance of the public sector banks is monitored by Government and Reserve Bank of India on continuing basis. The banks have taken several measures to increase their efficiency by strengthening their structure, internal systems of supervision and control and improving their training programmes. Action Plans have also been drawn up by banks to improve their operational efficiency and to strengthen their profitability. As regards services to the customers, the banks have taken various measures including time norms for rendering common services, speedier clearance and collection of cheques through computerisation of clearing houses and increased use of courier services, extending to individuals the facility of immediate credit of outstation cheques upto Rs. 2,500/-, setting up of machinery for prompt redressal of customer complaints, etc.

[*Translation*]

Filling up of SC/ST Quota in Banks

2623. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: